

**MINUTES OF THE
ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TASK FORCE**
Tuesday, November 19, 2002– 9:00 a.m. – Room 129 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Matt Throckmorton, House Chair
Sen. Dave L. Gladwell
Sen. Paula F. Julander
Sen. Millie M. Peterson
Sen. Carlene Walker
Sen. Bill Wright
Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Marda Dillree
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson

Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Gordon E. Snow
Ms. Janet A. Cannon
Ms. Joyce W. Richards

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Research Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the committee secretary, Wendy Bangerter, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Throckmorton called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Peterson moved to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2002 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Stephenson, Sen. Gladwell, Sen. Walker, Sen. Wright, Rep. Jones, and Rep. Morgan absent for the vote.

2. Mathematics Education

Ms. Heather Riddle, UCTM (Utah Council of Teachers of Mathematics), explained the purpose of UCTM is to focus on improving mathematics education at all levels. She made a presentation showing what students need to learn and emphasized the need for teachers to improve their teaching of mathematics.

Dr. Blake Peterson, Department of Mathematics Education, Brigham Young University, distributed and compared math scores of German, Japanese, and American students. He spoke in favor of students knowing when to use procedures and why they work. He encouraged the Legislature to support new, reformed teaching procedures.

Rep. Cox spoke in favor of traditional methods of teaching mathematics. He stated that scientific research is not taken seriously in education and that the new methods of teaching math do not help students think better.

Ms. Rebecca Whitchurch, Ms. Holly Hall, and Ms. Shannon Cannon, Teach Utah Kids, related their personal experiences with "new or whole math" and spoke in favor of traditional methods of teaching mathematics.

Ms. Vickie Dahn, USOE (Utah State Office of Education), explained that the State Office encourages teaching a balanced core, including basic skills and the understanding of concepts. She explained that they do not promote programs, but that districts have the latitude to adopt the programs they want to use to teach the core. She said that the "whole math" being referred to is a program. She said many districts have multiple resources they use to teach the core. She explained that the State Office recommends textbooks, but that she does not know of one source that sufficiently covers both basic skills and the understanding of math.

Superintendent Steven Laing, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, explained the process for reviewing textbooks. He stated that the textbook series being used in Alpine School District, after being reviewed, carried a caveat that it needed to be supplemented.

Ms. Vicki Lyons spoke in favor of the investigations or whole math program of teaching.

MOTION: Sen. Wright moved that legislation be drafted to require instruction in basic skills. The motion passed with Ms. Cannon and Ms. Richards voting in opposition and with Sen. Gladwell, Sen. Julander, Sen. Peterson, Rep. Dillree, Rep. Jones, and Rep. Morgan absent for the vote.

3. Consider Proposed Legislation "Elimination of State Funding for Exchange Students"

Mr. Dee Larson explained the changes in statute to eliminate funding for foreign exchange students. He explained that the repeal does not prohibit local districts from implementing a foreign exchange student program, provided there is an outside source of funding.

Ms. Steffen stated that federal law regulates student exchange agencies.

Mr. Kelly Atkinson, representing Rotary International Youth Exchange Program, explained that Rotary sponsors direct exchanges, which impose no additional costs on a school district, and encouraged the Legislature to provide funding for these types of exchanges.

Ms. Joan Patterson, USOE, stated this change would result in a \$700,000 savings.

MOTION: Sen. Walker moved to declare the intent of the Task Force to remove state funding from the foreign exchange program for those students who are not part of a direct exchange.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Dillree moved that in addition to recommending the removal of state funding, regulatory responsibilities for the foreign exchange program be shifted to school districts, and that the bill be presented during the 2003 General Session to the Education Standing Committee. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Dayton and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

4. Academic Achievement Testing under U-PASS and No Child Left Behind

Supt. Laing referred to the matrix previously distributed to the Task Force and reviewed the requirements for academic achievement testing under U-PASS and the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. He noted that NCLB requires less testing than U-PASS and made suggestions for streamlining U-PASS. Due to the great expense in time and money necessary to score questions requiring a constructed response, Supt. Laing suggested eliminating those test items in criterion-referenced tests. He also indicated that group-administered reading tests in grades 3-9 could be eliminated, because the State Office has determined that students' scores on other language arts tests correlate very highly with their scores on the reading tests. He spoke in favor of retaining the individually-administered diagnostic reading tests given in kindergarten, first, and second grades.

Dr. Louise Moulding, Director of Testing and Evaluation, USOE, stated that the contract for the scoring of constructed response questions through 2006 is \$15 million, but the contract is contingent upon funding.

Supt. Barry Newbold, Jordan School District, spoke in favor of the State Office's recommendations. He also spoke in support of on-line testing, which will ultimately be of most help to teachers and will be the least expensive testing procedure, once it is initially implemented.

Dr. Randy Merrill, Provo School District, stated that districts need the freedom to develop formative assessment tools. He also recommended administering the Stanford Achievement Test to only grades 5, 8, and 11.

Ms. Joan Reynolds, Director of Assessment, Salt Lake City School District, recommended that state policy on testing English language learners change to conform with NCLB. Under current state policy, English language learners are tested in English after one year of English language instruction, while NCLB does not require testing in English until after three years of English language instruction.

Dr. Frank Shaw, Jordan School District, noted that the criterion-referenced tests are not comparable to each other from year to year, but further development by the USOE will result in more longitudinal data.

Ms. Janice Coleman, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, distributed and reviewed a report, "Utah Performance Assessment System for Students," which compiles 2002 U-PASS cost data by test.

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson moved to endorse modification of U-PASS to eliminate the constructed response questions on criterion-referenced tests for all grades and eliminate group-administered reading tests for grades four and higher. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Jones absent for the vote.

5. On-line Assessment Update

Dr. Gary L. Carlston, Deputy Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education, reviewed efforts for on-line testing. One effort involves nine school districts, using a \$700,000 grant and includes both formative and summative tests. He stated that on a voluntary basis and as NCLB funds become available, the USOE would like to allow additional school districts to implement on-line assessment.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

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MOTION: Rep., Dayton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Throckmorton adjourned the meeting at 12:51 p.m.